

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

An invitation to Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) to develop project applications for FY2004 Section 319, Water Protection Fund and/or Watershed Protection Program Funding

Iowa Soil and Water Conservation Districts are invited to submit project applications for funding from the Section 319 program, the Water Protection Fund (WPF) and/or the Watershed Protection Program Fund (WSPF). While Section 319 and WPF funding may only be used to address nonpoint source related water quality concerns, WSPF funding may be used to address a variety of natural resource concerns, including water quality, flooding, erosion control, etc. The Section 319 program is administered by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The WPF and WSPF are administered by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship/Division of Soil Conservation (IDALS/DSC). Because of similar goals and procedures, DNR and DSC use a single application process for these three funding programs.

A **two-page pre-application** (optional) may be submitted. Pre-applications will be reviewed by DNR and DSC and comments provided to the sponsoring SWCD. These comments may assist a SWCD in developing a full project application.

Please note there is no form to fill out for a pre-application or a full project application. However, there is guidance regarding requirements of the three programs and information that must be included in project applications. **Please carefully read all guidance, as there have been significant changes from past years. Specifically:**

- Of the Section 319 funds Iowa receives from the US Environmental Protection Agency, roughly half will be targeted for waters included in the FY2002 Section 303(d) list of impaired waters. In addition, priority will be given to applications addressing a waterbody for which a TMDL has been completed or is currently being developed. A link to the waterbodies eligible under this criteria can be found in Attachment 6.
- EPA is requiring states to improve the performance and accountability of the Section 319 program. Those projects receiving FY2004 Section 319 funding will be **required** to provide additional data as part of the annual reports to measure reductions in pollutant loading, specifically sediment and nutrients, resulting from BMP implementations. Appendix 9 provides additional guidance regarding this requirement.
- DSC has been under increased scrutiny by Iowa legislators concerning the beneficial water quality impacts of the WSPF and WPF programs. Projects that have completed watershed assessments, with identified priority areas and have demonstrated a commitment to implementing BMPs within the priority areas will be given priority for funding.

IMPORTANT DATES:

The following dates must be met for a project to be considered for funding:

Pre-applications (optional) due to DSC by **March 5, 2004**; 5 copies are required
Applications due to DSC by **May 14, 2004**; 16 copies are required

WHERE TO MAIL:

Pre-applications and Applications should be sent to:

Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
Wallace State Office Building
Des Moines, IA 50319
attn: Elaine Ilvess, Division of Soil Conservation

WHO TO CONTACT:

Please direct questions regarding this invitation to any of the following:

- **Division of Soil Conservation (WPF or WSPF questions):**

William Ehm Director, 515-281-5851

Jim Gillespie, Bureau Chief, 515-281-7043 jim.gillespie@idals.state.ia.us

Becky Ohrtman, Regional Coordinator, 515-281-3599 becky.ohrtman@idals.state.ia.us

Jeff Tisl, Regional Coordinator, 563-427-6201, jeff.tisl@idals.state.ia.us

Vince Sitzmann, Regional Coordinator, 515-242-6008, vince.sitzmann@idals.state.ia.us

Applicants are strongly urged to contact Becky Ohrtman, Jeff Tisl, or Vince Sitzmann for assistance in developing or preparing an application.

- **Department of Natural Resources (Section 319 questions):**

Ubbo Agena, NPS Program Coordinator, 515-281-6402 ubbo.agena@dnr.state.ia.us

Becky Schwiete, Environmental Specialist, 515-242-6196 rebecca.schwiete@dnr.state.ia.us

Marie Leat, Environmental Specialist 515-281-8158 marie.leat@dnr.state.ia.us

- **NRCS (general water quality project questions):**

David Beck, Planning Leader, 515-284-4135 david.beck@ia.usda.gov

Roger Link, Water Quality Specialist, 515-323-2242 roger.link@ia.usda.gov

APPLICATION MATERIAL:

Following is a list of the application materials available for your reference. They may be found at DSC's web site:

<http://www.agriculture.state.ia.us/soilconservation.html>

or at IDNR's web site under Applications for Nonpoint Source Water Quality Projects:

<http://www.state.ia.us/epd/wtrq/npsource/npsintro.htm>

If you cannot download or have difficulty accessing this information please contact IDALS. Water Resources Bureau, 515-281-6146

- Attachment 1: Brief Guidance for Developing Project Applications for FY2004 Section 319, WPF and WSPF Programs
- Attachment 2: Required Application Cover Sheet - Iowa Water Quality or Other Natural Resource Project
- Attachment 3: Outline for Iowa Water Quality Project Applications
- Attachment 4: General Budget Sheets:
 - Water Quality Project Budget (Section 319, WPF and/or WSPF)
 - Water Quality Project Budget - Contributions of Other Agencies and Organizations
- Attachment 5: Detailed Budget Sheets (blank budget and example budget) (open in excel)
- Attachment 6: Information About the Section 319 Grant Program, and a link to the Section 303(d) list of impaired waterbodies and the TMDL program
- Attachment 7: Information About the Watershed Protection Program Fund (WSPF)
- Attachment 7a: Information About Water Protection Fund (WPF)
- Attachment 8a: Section 319/WPF Project Application Evaluation Criteria
- Attachment 8b: WSPF Project Application Evaluation Criteria
- Attachment 9: Accountability, Measuring Results and Reporting